

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 01444 251541Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /081 W

-----260534Z 103863 /15

R 251519Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7189

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 1517

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: SECURITY POLICE CONDUCT COUNTRY-WIDE MARCH 23 RAID

REF: PRETORIA 1358

1. SECURITY POLICE ARRESTS AND QUESTIONING OF BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION (BPC) ACTIVISTS IN EASTERN CAPE AS REPORTED REFTEL HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY COUNTRY-WIDE MARCH 23 RAIDS ON OTHER BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS PLUS FURTHER ARRESTS.

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PAGE 02 PRETOR 01444 251541Z

2. IN PRETORIA, FOUR MEMBERS SECURITY POLICE CONDUCTED MARCH 23 MORNING RAID WITHOUT SEARCH WARRANTS ON SOUTH AFRICAN CATHOLIC BISHOP'S CONFERENCE HOUSE. SECRETARY GENERAL OF CONFERENCE, FATHER DOMINIC SCHOLTEN, TOLD PRESS THAT OBJECT OF POLICE SEARCH WAS PAMPHLET "HEROES OF YESTERDAY-MARTYRS OF THE STRUGGLE." PAMPHLET REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN CIRCULATED TO COINCIDE WITH "HEROES' WEEK" CELEBRATIONS TO HONOR RIOT DEATHS OF 1976 AND

THOSE STRUGGLING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE IN SOUTH AFRICA. POLICE QUESTIONED FORMER DETAINEE AND SECRETARY OF ECUMENISM, DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNICATIONS FATHER SMANGALISO MKHATSHWA AND SEARCHED HIS CAR FOR COPY OF PAMPHLET. NO COPIES OF PUBLICATION WERE FOUND IN CONFERENCE HOUSE OR VEHICLE AND POLICE LEFT WITH SOME ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTS. ACCORDING TO FATHER SCHOLTEN, PRE-TEXT FOR RAID WAS BLACK SASH ARMBAND FOUND IN FRONT OF HOUSE.

3. IN JOHANNESBURG, ACCORDING TO PRESS, SECURITY POLICE CONDUCTED MARCH 23 RAID ON OFFICES OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION (SASO) AND BPC AT DUNWELL HOUSE. RAND DAILY MAIL REPORTED "RAID" ON OFFICES OF ATTORNEY SHUN CHETTY. HOWEVER, CHETTY TOLD EMBOFF POLICE SPENT APPROXIMATELY TEN MINUTES ASKING AND LOOKING FOR COPY OF "HEROES OF YESTERDAY-MARTYRS OF THE STRUGGLE" AND DID NOT SEIZE ANY PAPERS. POLICE ALSO QUESTIONED UNKNOWN NUMBER OF BPC MEMBERS IN SOWETO INCLUDING REV. DRAKE TSHEKENG, MR. V. MDLELENI, MR. THANDISIZWE MAZIBUKO, REV. M. MAYATHULA, AND MR.S. MAKHAPELA.

4. IN DURBAN, ACCORDING TO PRESS, MR. KAMBADASEN GOVENDER, 24, WAS DETAINED ON MARCH 23; SECURITY CHARGE NOT KNOWN. GOVENDER WAS ARRESTED IN 1974 AND CHARGED UNDER RIOTOUS ASSEMBLIES ACT FOR ATTENDING ILLEGAL GATHERING AT CURRIES FOUNTAIN.

5. IN CAPE TOWN, PRESS ALSO REPORTED MARCH 23 RAIDS ON OFFICES OF CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE IN ECUMENICAL CENTRE, MOWBRAY. ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION, ATHLONE ADVICE CENTER WAS ALSO RAIDED.

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 01444 251541Z

6. IN KING WILLIAM'S TOWN, SECURITY POLICE RAIDED HOME OF FORMER DETAINEE MR. MALUSI MPUMLWANA, SEVERAL OFFICES OF BLACK COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, AND QUESTIONED BPC OFFICE-HOLDER MR. THAMI ZANI.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH POLICE APPEAR TO BE LOOKING FOR COPIES OF "HEROES" PAMPHLET, MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF SIMULTANEOUS NATIONWIDE RAIDS MAY BE TO ASCERTAIN WHICH ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS ARE INVOLVED IN UNDERGROUND CIRCULATION AND/OR PROPAGATION OF BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS PUBLICATIONS. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARRESTS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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